

Notice of meeting
State Plan on Election Reform

Lt. Governor Olene S. Walker will be taking public comment on the State Plan on Election Reform, Preliminary Version on Tuesday, December 17, 2002 from noon to 2:00 p.m. in Room 129, State Capitol.

Agenda

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| I. | Overview of Federal Legislation | Olene S. Walker, Lt. Governor |
| II. | Review of State Plan | Olene S. Walker, Lt. Governor |
| III. | Public comment | |
| IV. | Adjourn | |

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids or services for this meeting should contact the State Elections Office at (801) 538-1041 at least 3 working days prior to the meeting.

Utah State Plan on Election Reform

Preliminary version

Members of the State Plan Committee are:

Olene S. Walker, Lt. Governor
Amy Naccarato, Director of Elections
Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk
Linda Lunceford, Weber County Clerk
Steve Rawlings, Davis County Clerk & Pat Beckstead, Davis County Elections Administrator
Arlin Kuhni, Utah County Clerk, accompanied by Kim Jackson, Utah County Clerk-elect
Robert Pero, Carbon County Clerk
Todd Taylor, Utah State Democratic Party
Scott Simpson, Utah Republican Party
Representative Loraine Pace
Senator Dan Eastman
Sandy Peck, League of Women Voters
Bill Gibson, Director, Utah Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Fraser Nelson, Disability Law Center
Thom Roberts, Attorney General's Office (legal counsel for Lt. Governor Walker's Office)

Implementing a Touch Screen System in Every Polling Location/Punch Card Buyout

It is the recommendation of the State Plan committee that Utah pursue funds for the punchcard buyout. Several counties expressed interest in the buyout if enough money is available to purchase new equipment. Equipment will be replaced "county by county."

Utah should pursue 2-3 pilot projects in order to find a system that meets the needs of elections officials as well as voters with visual impairments. This will entail conducting "mock elections" beginning in the winter of 2003. It is anticipated that that the pilot projects and test equipment will be in place by the 2004 primary election.

The state and counties will also work together to ensure that judges and voters are trained to use the system by setting up displays in public places, schools and other activities.

The State, in conjunction with the counties, will select a system and fully implement it by 2006, including one for blind and visually impaired in every polling place and any county who accepts punch card buyout.

Defining a Vote

The Lt. Governor will convene a committee to define a vote for systems currently in use and electronic systems.

Provisional Ballot

Each provisional ballot envelope will be numbered include a stub that the judge tears off and gives to the voter. The stub includes the provisional ballot number and a telephone number or

web site where the voter can find out if his vote was counted and if not, why.

Counties will establish a website or a toll-free number where voters can access the information about their provisional ballot.

The State and counties will institute a standard set of reasons why a ballot was rejected that clerks can enter into their computer system.

Single, Centralized, Statewide Database

The State will create a new statewide database, accessible to all counties. The Lt. Governor's in-house IT staff will create the database with input from the counties. Instead of entering new registrations, the system will force the person doing the entering to search for the voter and if the voter is in the database, it will allow the county official to update that data. The database will maintain a history of the voter, including previous addresses and previous voting history. The database will assign a state identifying number.

The last four digits of SSN, drivers license and place the drivers license was issued will be required on all voter registration forms and entered into the database. (This will also require a change to the voter registration forms.)

The database will include a feature that automatically assigns voters to precincts.

Voter ID at the Polls for First Time Voters and Voters Who Register by Mail

The statewide database will identify which voters need to show ID and this information will print out on the official register.

Change the voter registration form to inform voters that they should send in a photocopy of their ID along with the form.

Include instructions on absentee ballot that voter should include a copy of ID.

Voter Education

The State Plan Committee recommends that programs in place be continued and expanded where possible. This includes birthday cards to 18 year olds with a voter registration form, student mock election and College Council on Civic Awareness.

Other voter education opportunities the State and counties will pursue include:

- Work with blind and visually impaired to educate on new equipment.
- Mail Voter Pamphlet to every household (cost approximately \$250,000)
- More civics in high school curriculum.
- Demonstrate equipment in public places

Judges Training and Recruitment

Professionalize the job of judges by having professional training videos and increase in pay.
Standardize minimum pay in state law.

The committee agreed that the training and recruitment should remain at local level. However, the State and counties will work together to set up programs to recruit and train high school and college students to be poll workers.

Other

The State Plan committee agreed to allow the Lt. Governor's Office to decide, based on the recommendations of the committee and the federal requirements, what changes need to be made to state law. Representative Loraine Pace and Senator Dan Eastman will sponsor the bills.

The State will develop a statewide, toll free phone number to report fraud.

The Lt. Governor will oversee the federal funds. The State Plan Committee (or sub-committee) will establish performance evaluations for counties accepting federal money.